

Hardwood Lake Association news

PRESIDENT

President William Falbe passed away on March 2, 1996. Bill worked tirelessly for the Lake Association and the Lake clean-up project up until just a few weeks before his death. He will be sadly missed. Bill had served as our President for almost five years.

Bill's family started the William J. Falbe - Hardwood Lake Memorial Fund. They are hoping to place some type of playground equipment over at the campgrounds or possibly something at the Flag site.

DAVE SOMMERS, Vice President has assumed the role of President. Under the provisions of the by-laws he appointed Rod Mclane to assume the role of vice president. Clayton Dees was appointed to fill the directors position left open by Mclane.

CLEAN UP PROJECT

The lake clean-up project has had several setbacks but as of April it appears we are on the road for the clean-up to start this spring (1996).

A brief overview:

The Hardwood Lake Improvement Board was established under state laws by Richland Township. The board is a governmental body, much like a park board, and is completely separate from the



Lake Association. The lake lies mostly in Richland Township with a small portion in Logan township Progressive Engineering was hired to do a waste shed evaluation. Their report was reviewed at a public hearing.

The Lake Board determined that the cleanup project would proceed. In order to pay for the project taxes needed to be collected. A special assessment district was established. Costs for the cleanup were determined and individual property assessments were determined. Property owners were notified and was reviewed in another public hearing.

The special assessment district was determined, and the tax bills were mailed out in December. Both Richland and Logan Township Treasurers began collecting taxes. Richland Township Treasurer, Virginia Majors, refused to pay the bills of the Lake Board. She claimed that it was not her responsibility to pay the bills. She said on the record that it would

take a court order. The Logan township treasurer refused to pay out any moneys until it was determined if Majors must pay the bills on behalf of the Lake Board.

Richland township was in the process of getting a court order when Majors sued both Richland Township Officers and the Hardwood Lake Improvement Board. Her basic premise was that it wasn't her job to pay the bills. Richland Township & the Hardwood Lake Improvement Board in turn has counter sued claiming it is her job to pay the bills and that she be responsible for all legal fees.

While this was all going on Bill Falbe started a recall campaign against Majors. The bottom line was that the bills were not getting paid and the Lake Board could not proceed with awarding the contracts for the herbicide application and weed harvesting.

County Commissioner Lila Fegan worked out an understanding with the Ogemaw county Treasurer to pay the bills on a temporary basis until a judgment is rendered in the lawsuits.

At the April 10th, 1996 Lake Board meeting a resolution was passed to allow Margaret Robinson, Ogemaw County Treasurer, to open a special account on behalf of the Hardwood Lake Special Assessment District for the purpose of receiving and disbursing the moneys. Margaret Robinson has consented to this agreement on a temporary basis only. Pending the decision of the Judge, she will no longer handle the account but turn it back to Richland Township.

The Lake Board approved the hiring of Adept Aquatic Weed Control & Progressive Lake Management. It has been a long time coming. We should see some benefits of the cleanup beginning this summer. PLEASE bear in mind that this is initially a three year project, so it will take a couple of years to see real improvement in the amount of weeds and pond scum. PLEASE keep in mind that the lake WILL NEVER be a crystal clear lake. This project will no doubt be on going until we choose differently.

1996 MEMBERSHIP DUES are due June 15th

Once again your membership dues are coming due. Enclosed is your membership dues renewal. We will be sending out the Annual Picnic notices some time late in June or early July.

OFFICERS & BOARD OF DIRECTORS

There will be a meeting on Saturday, May 25, 1996 at the home of Judy Sheehan,, 3153 S. Henderson Lake Road, Prescott, MI @ 1:00 p.m.

INPUT NEEDED: If you have a question or a concern and we can be of help please feel free to call or drop us a note. Officers phone numbers listed below.

Dave Sommers	(517) 781-3444
Rodney Mclane	(810) 385-0781
Judy Sheehan	(517) 873-4566